



Statewide Commission on Children, Youth and their Families
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
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Second Step

Program Overview

Second Step is an evidence-based violence prevention curriculum designed to reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior in children by increasing their social competencies. The curriculum's foundation rests on three essential social competencies: a) empathy, b) impulse control and problem-solving, and c) anger management. The program uses peer interactions and adult-modeling to foster the development of a positive identity, and is designed for teachers to integrate into classroom lesson.

Participation

Fifteen schools, listed below, with grades pre-kindergarten through eight were selected in July 2008 to participate in the pilot and put the program into practice school-wide.

Brightwood Educational Center
Browne Educational Center
Burroughs Educational Center
Emery Educational Center
Francis-Stevens Educational Center
Langdon Educational Center
LaSalle-Backus Educational Center
Marshall Educational Center

Raymond Educational Center
Shaed Educational Center
Takoma Educational Center
Truesdell Educational Center
Walker-Jones Educational Center
West Educational Center
Whittier Educational Center

Additionally, teachers from elementary schools across the city have elected to be trained and to use the program in their classrooms.

Expected Outcomes

When the program is implemented with fidelity, schools experience fewer disciplinary referrals, an increase in positive interactions among their students, and a positive shift in overall school culture. Teachers report students being better equipped to handle emotional situations on their own, and having more time to teach because behavioral issues interrupt the classroom less frequently.

For More Information

For questions about implementation in the District, please contact Abby Bonder by e-mail at Abby.Bonder@dc.gov or by phone at 727-2986. For questions about how the program operates nationally or the evidence-base, visit the Committee for Children on the web at <http://www.cfchildren.org>.